

## THE GAZETTE.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 1870.

## The Future Life—By Wm. C. Bryant.

How shall I know thee in the sphere which keeps

The disembodied spirits of the dead,

When all of thee that time could wither, sleeps

And perishes among the dust we tread?

For I shall feel the sting of ceaseless pain,

If there I meet thy gentle spirit not;

Nor hear the voice I love, nor read again

In thy serene eyes the tender thought.

Will not thy own weak heart demand me

There?

That heart whose fondest throbs to me was given?

My name on earth was ever in thy prayer,

And wilt thou never utter it in heaven?

In meadows fanned by heaven's life-breathing wind,

In the responsiveness of that glorious sphere,

And larger movements of the unfettered mind,

Will thou forget the love that joined us here?

The love that lived through all the stormy past,

And meekly with my harsher nature bore,

And deeper grew, and tender to the last;

Shall it expire with life and be no more?

A happier lot than mine, and larger light

Await thee there, for thou hast bowed thy will

To cheerful homage to the rule of right,

And lovest all, and renderest good for ill.

For me the sordid cares in which I dwell,

Shrine and consume my heart as heat the scroll,

And wrath has left its scar—that fire of hell

Has left its frightful scar upon my soul.

Yet, though thou wear'st the glory of the sky,

Wilt thou not keep the same beloved name,

The same fair thoughtful brow and gentle eye?

Lovelier in heaven's sweet climate, yet the same?

Shalt thou not teach me, in that calmer home,

The wisdom that I learned so ill in this—

The wisdom which is love—till I become

Thy fit companion in the land of bliss?

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